WEST VIRGINIA

ANNUAL SUMMARY

TO

U. S. FOREST SERVICE

1975

Hardwood Defoliators --

Fall Cankerworm - Alsophila pometaria

This insect caused defoliation to approximately 1,200 acres of Oaks and Maple in Jefferson County in 1974. The Dolly Sods Area in Grant County had approximately 3,000 acres defoliated in 1974. In 1975 both of these areas were checked and occasional trees were defoliated. A complete collapse occurred in both areas. Reason for collapse are unknown. Carabid beetles, Calosoma frigidum, were numerous in the sods area again this year.

Forest Tent Caterpillar - Malacosoma disstria

Very few larvae were collected. No infestations at present time.

Eastern Tent Caterpillar - Malocosoma americana

Complete collapse in 1973 and none or very few nests observed this year. Nests have been observed in South Western Pennsylvania and we may experience an increase in the next few years.

Cherry Scallop Shell Moth - Calocalpe undulata

Very few webs were observed this year.

Fall Webworm - Hyphantria cunea

Webs were abundant throughout the state and occurred in every county. Occasional trees were defoliated throughout the state. It seems this insect is increasing and heavy defoliation could take place in future years.

Locust Leaf Miner - Xenochalepus dorsalis

Very heavy defoliation took place this year in West Virginia. Defoliation occurred throughout Southwestern and parts of Central West Virginia.

The Red-humped Oakworm - Symmerista canicosta and Orange-humped Mapleworm - Symmerista leucitys

No defoliation or specimens collected this year.

Variable Oak leaf Caterpillar - Heterocampa manteo

A few specimens were submitted but no infestations were found.

Green Striped Mapleworm - Anisota rubicunda

No infestations found and very few specimens submitted.

Saddled Prominent - Heterocampa guttivita

No specimens found.

Oak leaf tier Complex - Croesia albriomana and others

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture conducted a test spray program this year using Thuricide 1BB in cooperation with Sandoz, Inc. Four ten acre blocks were sprayed with 8 BIU and four ten acre blocks were sprayed with 4 BIU. To date the spray looks like it may have done some good. Complete results are not yet available. Heavy defoliation did occur in some areas of Pocahontas County but infestations were not as heavy as 1974. Predictions for next year have not been made.

Orange-striped Oakworm - Anisota senatoria

Numerous specimens were submitted and defoliation was noted to some acreage in Hampshire County. The insect seems to be statewide but not a serious problem.

Gypsy Moth - Porthetria dispar

Twelve male moths were caught in West Virginia this year. All catches were in Jefferson (6 males), Berkeley (4 males), and Morgan (2 males). To date

36 male moths have been caught in West Virginia. We still have 9 counties with male moth catches.

Parasite releases have been made in male Gypsy Moth catch areas and areas where native insects are abundant that would sustain the parasite populations. To date 95,507 Brachymeria intermedia, 791, Coccygomimus sp., 455 C. turionellae, 112, C. instigator, 1,141 Apanteles liparidis, 500 A. porthetriae, 388 Meteorus pulchricornis, and 153 Palexorista inconspicua have been released in the state.

Walking Stick - Diapheromera femorata

Heavy defoliation occurred on Black Locust and Black Oaks in Mineral County. No estimate has been made of areas defoliated.

Datana Caterpillars - Datana sp.

These insects are abundant but in no one particular area are they causing problems.

The Periodical Cicada Brook I will occur in 1978 in Pendleton and Grant counties.

An Oak Sawfly = Caliroa quercuscoccineae

This insect caused complete defoliation to approximately 42,000 acres in southern West Virginia. The defoliation extended from Alderson in Greenbrier County to the Virginia line in McDowell County. Pipestem State Park has approximately 2,200 acres defoliated and plans are underway to spray this area next year for control of the insect.

Conifer Defoliatora and Engravers --

Bagworm - Thridopteryx ephemeraformis

This seems to be an all time high for defoliation by the bagworm. Ornamental shrubs and evergreens have been completely defoliated throughout the state. Numerous Sycamore trees have been defoliated this year in many areas of the state.

Virginia Pine Sawfly - Neodiprion pratti pratti

No problems with this insect this year. The eggs hatched in January and cold weather killed most larvae.

Redheaded Pine Sawfly - Neodiprion lecontei

Defoliation occurred to several plantations in the state this year. Defoliation was by the second generation larvae. This insect seems to be on the increase.

The Nantucket Pine tip Moth - Rhyconia frustana and others.

This insect is increasing and causing considerable damage to Christmas tree plantings and nurseries in West Virginia. Control measures are being contemplated.

Southern Pine Beetle - Dendroctonus frontalis

Numerous specimens have been received and new infestations have been found.

Miscellaneous insects.

Larger Elm leaf Beetle - Monocesta coryli, is common throughout the state and has caused considerable defoliation to elm throughout the state.

The Birch leaf Miner - Fenusa pusilla

Causing damage to white Birch in Upshur County and the northern part of the state.

The Asiatic Oak Weevil - Crytepistomus castaneus

This insect caused defoliation to approximately 1,000 acres of Oaks in Pocahontas County. This insect is becoming more common throughout the state and seems to be increasing in some areas.